

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Lawyers win temporary stay of foreclosure eviction of 82-year old Ana Rodriguez,
Cuban American freedom fighter and former political prisoner**

Bank of America used forged mortgage documents to foreclose on her house; Senator Taddeo pledges to work on legislation that can protect homeowners like Ms. Rodriguez

On Wednesday, lawyers for 82-year-old Miami resident Ana Rodriguez filed an emergency motion to stop the foreclosure eviction from her home of 26 years. This is part of a 2-year effort by the community to support the former Cuban political prisoner and help her keep her home. The hearing is set for Friday, February 26 at 3:30pm via Zoom.

"It's very difficult, after all I have had to endure, at my age to still have to fight, but America is the greatest country in the world," says Ms. Rodriguez. "Only here could an old poor woman from Cuba have a chance to save her home by going to court against a powerful bank."

The emergency motion explains that Bank of America was the mortgage servicer who filed the foreclosure against Ms. Rodriguez using fake evidence in 2009. Ana took a predatory subprime loan that Countrywide Home Loans, Inc., sold to millions of elderly and first time borrowers from communities of color. Bank of America later bought Countrywide and became responsible for all those loans.

"It was a ticking time bomb set to default," says attorney Bruce Jacobs, a former Miami prosecutor and nationally recognized foreclosure defense lawyer. "When it defaulted, Bank of America filed the foreclosure using fake evidence. They attached a robo-signed mortgage assignment to their first complaint, and then a forged rubberstamp endorsement to their second complaint."

According to Mr. Jacobs, Ana's case is just the tip of the iceberg as there is evidence Bank of America and JP Morgan Chase engaged in this systemic foreclosure fraud in Florida, Hawaii, Ohio, and every judicial foreclosure state in the country. The fraud involves felonies of forgery and perjury that violated the \$25 Billion National Mortgage Settlement, the federal and state racketeering (RICO) statutes, several felony statutes, and the doctrine of "unclean hands."

Miami city commissioner Alex de la Portilla visited with Ana: "We're talking about people without, without jobs, without resources. The problem we have is that the people most in need, with the most advanced ages, are the ones who need our help the most."

Senator Annette Taddeo said "banks should not be allowed to game the legal system and use forged documents to foreclose and evict homeowners, especially during a pandemic. I'm looking into legislation to protect homeowners like Ms. Rodriguez and to hold the banks accountable for their reckless and unlawful behavior."

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More Background: Ana is the protagonist in the book, “Diary of a Survivor - Nineteen Years in a Cuban Women’s Prison”. As a beautiful 21-year-old medical student she was “ratted out” by a spy Dictator Fidel Castro planted in her underground unit. Facing death, she was sentenced to 30 years in prison. She endured 19 years of torture, abuse, deprivation and humiliation. After her release from prison, she fled to Costa Rica, eventually realizing her dream of becoming a U.S. citizen and buying a home of her own in 1990.

Edward Goldfarb, a Realtor met with Ana and after hearing her horrific story took heart and contacted Rick Hirsch at the Miami Herald, resulting in a front page article on March 25, 2019. Goldfarb, then started a Go Fund Me campaign which raised nearly \$25,000. Mr. Goldfarb was contacted by a benefactor who wanted to buy the home from the bank. The benefactors lawyers tried to negotiate to buy the home, but the Bank of America’s attorney demanded a grossly overpriced figure of over \$700,000.

Complicating matters further, Bank of America sold Ms. Rodriguez’s home in October 2020 to Vanessa Veytia while Ms. Rodriguez’s lawsuit was pending. A google search of Vanessa Veytia results in a series of articles describing how she is the sister of Edgar Veytia, a disgraced and corrupt former State Attorney General for the Mexican government who pled guilty to being on the payroll of a Mexican drug cartel. Ms. Veytia purchased Ms. Rodriguez’s home for \$414,000 without disclosing whether the source of the funds came from her brother’s criminal activity.